

JULY 2004 IRP E-NEWS

Brought to You by the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP)

The IRP mission is to join diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho.

Upcoming IRP Meetings - IRP has a series of upcoming activities and welcomes your involvement in all of them. Please mark your calendar for the following events:

July 27 IRP Environment Com. Meeting, 9 am–Noon, USDA State Office
August 4 IRP Board of Directors Meeting, Albion, All day; *Featuring City of Rocks National Reserve & Castle Rocks State Park*
August 25 IRP Economic Development Committee Meeting, 10 a.m. – Noon, Idaho Department of Commerce
September 8 – 9 Rexburg Community Review
November 4 IRP Board of Directors Meeting, Eastern Idaho, All day; *Featuring Partners for Prosperity and Canamex*

For more information about any of these activities, to volunteer for a committee or to sign up for the IRP newsletter go to www.irp.idaho.gov.

Looking for a Rural Listserv? If so, check out those offered by the National Rural Development Partnership. There is a general rural listserv and specific lists by topic including Agriculture & Economic Development, Health Care, Welfare Reform, Livable Rural Communities, Telecommunications, Tribal Issues and Welfare Reform. For more information please contact Bridzette Lane blane@ocdx.usda.gov or see subscription instructions on-line at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/listserv.html>

Idaho Brownfields Grants Awarded - For the first time, federal competitive brownfields cleanup grant money is coming to Idaho. “Brownfields” is the term used to describe property that is unavailable for development due to environmental contamination. Such properties are often difficult to revitalize, which can stall economic growth through a fear of liability or a lack of funding to clean up such sites. These grants provide direct funding for cleanup activities and for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessment and community outreach. Four Idaho communities will share in over \$500,000 in grant funds, largely due to the efforts of the Idaho congressional delegation working with the Environmental Protection Agency over the last two years. The four Idaho entities receiving funds include Caldwell \$200,000 for assessment, Capital City Development Corporation, Boise \$200,000 for assessment, Salmon Urban Renewal Agency \$95,000 for cleanup, and Washington County \$85,675 for assessment. Detailed information on each grant can be obtained at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.

Annual Rural Development Conference - The 2004 National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP) Annual Leadership Conference will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 30-September 2, 2004. The agenda focuses on ‘Opening Gateways to Rural America’ and includes sessions on health care, tourism, agriculture, entrepreneurship, technology, workforce development and more. For more information, a complete schedule and registration form go to <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/Oklahoma.html>. Pre-registration is due by July 29th.

Gateway Communities Broadcast in Boise - The Conservation Leadership Network invites you to participate in a long distance learning workshop of the Gateway Communities Leadership Program. The program will take place on **Thursday, July 8** from 10:15 am to 1:30 pm, as an interactive satellite television broadcast. The Idaho Bureau of Land Management is hosting this

broadcast in their Sagebrush Ponderosa Conference Room in Boise. The BLM is located at 1387 Vinnell Way in Boise. The program is an excellent opportunity to introduce community leaders and public land staff to key concepts and issues that influence gateway communities and public lands, including growth, tourism, and transportation, and how to use your community's assets to preserve local character and the cultural and natural landscape. This workshop serves as an excellent place for community leaders and public lands managers to discuss opportunities for working collaboratively and capitalizing on local assets. There is no cost to attend this workshop. RSVP to Jerry Rohnert, BLM Public Affairs, Idaho BLM, at 208-373-4017.

Interested in Federal Funds? - The USDA Rural Information Center has a new database, federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas, along with grant writing tips and other helpful information. The database provides keyword and Boolean search capabilities. Go to <http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/funding/federalfund/ff.html>.

Microenterprise Training Offered - With support from the Northwest Area Foundation and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and other organizations, The Association for Enterprise Opportunity (AEO) is conducting a Microenterprise Development Regional Training Institute on **July 19-20** in Coeur d'Alene. This one and a half day institute focuses on building the skills of professionals engaged in microenterprise development training, lending, and management. Workshop highlights include Best Practices in Underwriting Microloans for Start-Ups, Designing an Effective, High-Performance Microenterprise Program, Native Entrepreneurship: Best Practices in Program Development and Training Strategies, Rural Microenterprise Organizations as a Catalyst for Community Economic –Development, and Designing a High-Impact, Cost-Effective, Technical Assistance Program. For a registration form go to <http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/conferences/rti.htm>.

Rural Broadband Workshops - USDA recently announced locations for several regional rural broadband funding workshops. The workshop closest to Idaho will be in Portland, Oregon all day on **July 13th**. The workshops are to assist potential broadband loan applicants with detailed information and technical assistance on how to apply for Broadband infrastructure funding. The workshops will be at no cost to the participants, but registration prior to the conferences will be required. Discussions will include: what is required in a market survey; a business plan; how to satisfy credit support requirements and how to develop financial forecasts and other financial information. Eligibility will be discussed in terms of broadband services, communities, technologies, and who qualifies as a borrower. The Rural Development broadband staff will be available at the same location from 8:30 a.m. until Noon the day after the workshop for individual guidance by prior appointment. To register for the Portland session contact Brian Otten at brian.otten@or.usda.gov or 503-414-3336. Additional information including a downloadable presentation is available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/broadband.htm>.

LIA Applications Due 8/1/04 - The Leadership Idaho Agriculture (LIA) program is accepting applications for Class XXV through August 1, 2004. LIA offers concentrated study and hands on experiences that provide enhanced skills for future leaders in agriculture, rural communities, agribusiness and governmental agencies. The program prepares rural leaders through tours, guest speakers, panel discussions and group interaction. Class XXV will meet for four days each month in November, December January and February. IRP is a proud sponsor of LIA and encourages interested individuals to go to www.leadershipidahoag.org or call 208/888-0988 for more information, class dates and an application form. Interested individuals that need tuition or

travel support may be eligible for scholarships from IRP and will be considered as part of the normal LIA application process.

USDA Rural Economic Grants - Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has announced the availability of \$6.5 million in rural cooperative development grants to improve rural economic conditions through establishing and operating centers for cooperative development. These grants are designed to make feasible the creation, or retention, of jobs in rural areas. Priority consideration for an award will be granted to those applicants who have a successful administrative track record, have demonstrated expertise in providing technical assistance to rural areas and have an ability to retain business and generate opportunities to improve the local economic conditions. These competitive awards are available to non-profit corporations and institutions of higher education, as authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill. Matching funds are required for eligibility. Applications for a Rural Cooperative Development Grant must be received no later than **July 26**, 2004. Detailed information about application and program requirements will be included in the June 9, 2004, publication of the Federal Register. Further information is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Small Business Information Forum - This one day forum provides important and valuable information that can help the attendee handle starting a new business. Several government agencies, both federal and state, will be attending to answer questions such as: What responsibilities come with having employees-When to pay sales tax - How to avoid penalties- Which forms to file and when and where to file the forms- How to get SBA assistance. The cost is only \$10 and pre-registration is required. The remaining 2004 sessions are scheduled for **September 9 and November 18** in Boise at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. To register or for more information, visit <http://www2.state.id.us/iic/register.htm>, or phone Lola Barnett at (208) 334-6032.

Looking for Something to do this Summer? – The Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) has compiled and released a list of youth programs with an entrepreneurial and/or business focus. The effort is designed to put young people in contact with programs that will help them improve their skills and self-confidence. Programs highlighted on the youth list range from aviation career education to workforce investment boards. Featured conferences include Idaho Business Week, Idaho 4-H and Junior Achievement. This effort was an activity of the IRP Education and Workforce Development Committee. IRP's goal, in cooperation with numerous partners, is to develop future entrepreneurs that can start their own business in rural Idaho rather than having to move somewhere else to find a job. The list includes a brief summary of over 30 programs with contact information for each. To view the entire list go to www.irp.idaho.gov.

Summer Shadow Program for Premedical Students - The WWAMI (Idaho) Office for Clinical Medical Education and its many partners are working with all Idaho College and University premedical advisors to offer a three-day summer shadowing program to premedical students. Students apply to participate in the program and are matched with primary care physicians throughout the state of Idaho. Studies have shown that students are making career decisions in undergraduate studies as well as high school. This experience introduces the student to rural medicine as well as primary care early in their learning careers. For more information, please contact the WWAMI (Idaho) Office for Clinical Medical Education at 208-327-0641 or danae@u.washington.edu.

Kellogg Foundation Grants Available - The W.K. Kellogg Foundation will award up to \$8 million in grants to foster entrepreneurship across rural America. Four grants of up to \$2 million each will be awarded to four rural regional entrepreneurship development systems. Each will promote entrepreneurial activity in their region, produce entrepreneurial models for other communities, leverage significant investment, and stimulate national and state interest in rural entrepreneurship policies and strategies. The Kellogg Foundation has contracted with the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) to assist it in identifying states and regions in rural America that demonstrate the capability of creating effective Entrepreneurial Development Systems. The Kellogg Foundation is seeking applicants that will form a collaborative of groups (may be private, governmental, and nonprofit) to provide a full range of entrepreneurship development services for their region-be it a community, county, group of counties, reservation or state. The application deadline is August 13, 2004. Final awards will be announced in March 2005. More detailed application information can be found on the Kellogg Foundation's Web site at <http://www.wkkf.org/ruralentrepreneurs> or CFED's Web site at www.eshipsystems.org. For additional questions, please contact CFED at 202.408.9788 ext 261 or email CFED at eshipsystems@cfed.org.

New SBA Electronic Publication - The Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy has introduced a new quarterly publication, *Quarterly Indicators: The Economy and Small Business*. This new release will examine recent monthly and quarterly data from a wide variety of sources relevant to small businesses. Please visit <http://www.sba.gov/advo/stats/> to obtain a copy of the quarterly publication and other SBA info. For more information, please contact the Chief Economist, Chad Moutray, at (202) 205-6533.

Governor's Aging Conference Announced - Film and TV actor George Kennedy will help kick off the 2004 Idaho Governor's Conference on Aging themed "Aging Well - Living Well," a three-day symposium focusing on the benefits and challenges of planning for your and your loved ones' golden years. Governor Dirk Kempthorne and the Idaho Commission on Aging are hosting the conference **September 13-15** at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel in Boise as part of Governor Kempthorne's initiative as chairman of the National Governors' Association to draw attention to long-term care challenges. Sessions include life-long learning, personal health and care, financial planning, Medicare, long-term care and caregiver support. The conference cost, which has a minimal fee for seniors, will include some meals. The event will also provide free and low-cost health services, as well as informational booths for all attendees. For information on attending, becoming a sponsor of the conference, having a vendor or health fair booth, contact Jacqueline Hooper at the Idaho Commission on Aging at 208-334-3833 or via email at jhooper@icoa.state.id.us.

2004 Community Development Institute - The Idaho Department of Commerce and Association of Idaho Cities have announced the 2004 Northwest Community Development Institute will be held on July 18 – 23 at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel in Boise. The Institute is a three-year certification program that provides community and economic development practitioners with a formal training ground designed to address complex issues and increase effectiveness of existing and potential leaders. For registration information go to www.idahocities.org or call Mindy Hobson at 800-344-8594. For curriculum or scholarship information go to www.idoc.state.id.us or call Gloria Mabbutt at 334-2470.